

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE



Report

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Department

for the year

1948.

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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Mayor:

ALDERMAN H. P. JONES, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN MRS. A. H. LUNT, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR E. A. HEYNES, J.P.

Alderman Mrs. E. FRANCIS.

Councillor A. A. BATEMAN.

Councillor W. BODY.

Councillor F. G. GREGORY.

Councillor J. GRIFFITHS.

Alderman Mrs. A. H. LUNT, J.P.

Councillor Miss E. M. D. MOODY.

Councillor R. G. OSBORNE.

Councillor B. SKELDING, J.P.

Councillor S. TREVIS.

Councillor E. W. L. TYE.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. CORLETT, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

F. S. MELVILLE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (as from 1/9/48).

Sanitary Inspector, also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts:

*A. E. K. KENT, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector:

*J. W. BILLINGHAM, M.S.I.A. (as from 15/11/48).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

*R. F. ROBINS, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (resigned 20/6/48).

*G. H. STONE, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff:

N. F. COOKSON (*Chief Clerk*) (resigned 25/11/48).

A. POWELL (*Ambulance Officer*).

G. W. NOKE (resigned 25/7/48).

MISS A. TONKS.

E. N. JAMES (as from 11/10/48).

**Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.*

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1948.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

In common with the decline in the Birth Rate for England and Wales (from 20.5 to 17.9), the Birth Rate for the Borough decreased from 19.46 to 16.3 per thousand of the population, representing 103 fewer births. Correspondingly there were fewer deaths, the number declining from 427 to 377, giving a Death Rate of 10.28 as opposed to 11.85. The Death Rate for England and Wales was 10.8 (from 12.0).

The general health of the Borough during the year was satisfactory. There was a slight increase in mortality from Heart Disease, 121 deaths being recorded as against 117. Deaths attributable to Cancer, however, declined from 73 to 59.

Respiratory disease accounted for fewer deaths—49 compared with 68. The combined mortality for Bronchitis and Pneumonia declined from 35 to 30, and there were no fatal cases of Influenza, which caused six deaths in the previous year.

Measles incidence rose from 215 cases to 336, the Morbidity Rate increasing from 5.97 to 9.0, compared with 9.34 for England and Wales. The increased incidence began in June and was most prevalent in October. Whooping Cough notifications declined from 47 cases to 37, and, as with Measles, there were no deaths.

Whilst there was an increase in Scarlet Fever notifications from 53 to 65 (there were no deaths), there was not a single confirmed case of Diphtheria, of which there were 30 cases in 1947. I think I can safely say that this is the first time in the statistical history of the Borough that Diphtheria has been completely non-prevalent throughout the year. This, I consider, is a pleasing testimony to the protective value of immunisation and whilst it would be unreasonable, bearing in mind all the factors, to expect a continuance of such complete immunity,

nevertheless it affords a valuable indication of the efficacy of immunisation treatment. In conjunction with the County Council, who, since 5th July, 1948, when the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, have become entirely responsible for the provision of Diphtheria Immunisation treatment, every effort is being made to maintain progress in the numbers immunised, both in the matter of "boosting" doses as well as primary treatment.

In this connection my thanks are due to the County Health Visitors for their good work, and to Mrs. Bridgwater who voluntarily assists at the Immunisation Clinics.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record again my appreciation of the help and consideration extended to me at all times by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also to thank Dr. Melville, Mr. A. E. K. Kent, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the staff of the Department for their continued helpfulness.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

					<i>Acres.</i>
The Area of the Borough is	....	....	....	....	4,214
viz.: Stourbridge	....	....	....	....	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	....	....	....	....	1,025
Pedmore	....	....	....	....	1,269
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was	....				33,140
viz.: Stourbridge	....	....	....	....	19,904
Lye and Wollescote	....	....	....	....	12,237
Pedmore	....	....	....	....	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1948	....	....			36,670
Number of inhabited houses, 1931	....	....	....		8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1948	....	....			10,935
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	....	....			8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1948; not available.					
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	£193,340
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....		£729

Statistical Memorandum.

Population estimated, mid-year, 1948	....	....	....	36,670
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	....			16.30
Birth Rate—Average for five years, 1944-48	....	....		17.97
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	....			10.28
Death Rate—Average for five years, 1944-48	....	....		11.93
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	....	....	....	23
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	....	....		0.409
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	....	....		—

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, and the chief industries are hollow-ware and iron-founding, engineering, the manufacture of Forgings, Spades and Shovels, Chains and Vices, Aluminium and Fireclay products, Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves.

The Borough Council is the owner of the Gas Undertaking, whose works are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, and Amblecote and Stourbridge are Constituent Members of the Stourbridge and District Water Board (with two Members from the Wordsley Ward of the Brierley Hill Urban District Council).

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	....	....	....	293	....	282	....	575
Illegitimate	....	...	....	9	....	14	....	23
				302		296		598

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.3

Birth Rate for England and Wales 17.9

Still Births.

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	....	....	....	11	....	6	....	17
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	....	—	....	—
				11		6		17

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 16.77

DEATHS.

Males 205

Females 172

377

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.28

Death Rate for England and Wales 10.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis —

Other Maternal causes —

The Maternal Mortality Rates — per 1,000 total (live and still)
Births—for England and Wales were:—

Abortion with Sepsis 0.11

Abortion without Sepsis ... 0.05

Puerperal Infections 0.13

Other Maternal causes 0.73

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

				M.		F.		Total.
Legitimate	....	....	....	10	....	4	....	14
Illegitimate	....	...	...	—	....	—	....	—
				10		4		14

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births 23.4

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 34 per 1,000
Live Births.

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Respiratory Tuberculosis	9	6
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12. Ac. Inf. Encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of Buc: cav: and aesoph (M); uterus (F)	2	7
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	8	2
15. Cancer of breast	—	9
16. Cancer of all other sites	20	11
17. Diabetes	—	1
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	18	24
19. Heart Disease	65	56
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3
21. Bronchitis	14	8
22. Pneumonia	4	4
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	—
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
26. Appendicitis	1	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	5	3
28. Nephritis	7	3
29. Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Maternal causes	—	—
31. Premature Birth	5	—
32. Congenital Malformation, birth injury, infantile diseases	5	3
33. Suicide	2	2
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
35. Other violent causes ...	1	4
36. All other causes	27	25
	205	172
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	59
Death from Measles (all ages)	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on page 3.

Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) is now carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, and that of Water, Milk and Foodstuffs is done at the County Laboratory, Worcester.

Ambulance Facilities.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, responsibility for the provision of the Ambulance Service was transferred to the County Council as from 5th July, 1948.

During the period of the year prior to the transfer, the total number of cases dealt with was 1,222 involving 13,381 miles, of which 250 calls (2,953 miles) related to sitting car cases.

Some 45 cases (33 Bromsgrove Rural District, 7 Amblecote Urban District and 5 Brierley Hill Urban District) were conveyed to hospital by arrangement with these Authorities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are two Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough. That in Stourbridge is at 40, New Road, and the Centre at Lye is in Orchard Lane.

School Clinics, Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Sessions, Orthopaedic Clinics, etc., are arranged by the County Council.

Prevention of Diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics were held monthly during the year at the Infant Welfare Centres, as follows:—

Stourbridge (40, New Road)	Third Friday in the month. (10 a.m.—12 noon.)
Lye (Orchard Lane)	Third Thursday in the month. (2 p.m.—4 p.m.)

Scabies.

Scabies incidence during the year was almost negligible, there being only eight cases (mostly school children) of slight infection, which were treated with Benzyl Benzoate Cream.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The water supply to the area of the Borough of Stourbridge is controlled by the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The Board was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1909 and is composed of twelve members nominated by the Borough of Stourbridge, and the Urban District Councils of Amblecote and Brierley Hill. It operates three pumping stations, two of which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and the third in Brierley Hill.

At each of the pumping stations there are two boreholes; these are tubes protected for part of their full depth and generally penetrate into the upper Bunter Sandstone, middle Bunter and Pebble Beds of the Lower Bunter Sandstone. The whole of the supply is pumped into two well defined areas of supply, the high level and the low level. The high level area, the consumption of which averages 400,000 gallons per day is normally supplied by the Coalbournebrook Pumping Station and a Standby is available at Mill Meadow Station. Both these Stations are in Amblecote. A balance tank for this area is available at Wychbury Hill and has a capacity of 350,000 gallons.

It is in the low level area of supply that the major part of the Borough of Stourbridge is situated. The consumption in this area is in the region of 1,400,000 gallons per day averaged throughout the year, and is normally supplied now by the Tack Lane Pumping Station. This Station has been in full operation since January, 1948, and has provided a bountiful supply of water of a much softer quality than has hitherto been available in the area.

The Board proposes to develop this Station still further by the provision of a Duplicate pumping plant.

Standby plant is available at Coalbournebrook Pumping Station and at Mill Meadow for the supply of the low level area.

A balance tank of 500,000 gallons capacity is situated at Doctor's Hill.

Particulars of samples taken are included in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board. The sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards, and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

Public Cleansing.

The scavenging is carried out by direct labour and is dealt with by controlled tipping. Four tips were in use, viz.: Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street; Wollaston Hall Estate; Bromley Street, Lye; and Hay Green, Lye.

SECTION D.

Housing work is referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

Details of the inspections carried out during the year will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.**Small Pox.**

No case was reported during the year.

Typhoid Fever.

There was one case of Typhoid Fever which was contracted outside the Borough. The patient was admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen, and made a good recovery.

There is reason to believe that the incubation period was a minimum of 31 days, instead of the usual period of 10—15 days for this country.

Scarlet Fever.

There was an increased incidence of Scarlet Fever, 65 cases being notified compared with 53 in the previous year. The disease in most of the cases was of a mild type, and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

There were 580 children—510 being of pre-school age—completely immunised during the year, whilst in addition 511 school children were given “boosting” injections.

Since 1935 the record of Immunisation in the Borough is as follows:—

		<i>Alum Precipitated</i>			
<i>Year</i>		<i>Toxoid</i>	<i>Toxoid Anti-toxin</i>		
		<i>2 inj.</i>	<i>Mixture</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1935	....	—	3	....	3
1936	....	—	—	....	—
1937	....	247	46	....	293
1938	....	201	23	....	224
1939	....	61	35	....	96
1940	....	—	112	....	112
1941	....	65	1397	....	1462
1942	....	17	1806	....	1823
1943	....	563	71	....	634
1944	....	507	—	....	507
1945	....	671	—	....	671
1946	....	536	—	....	536
1947	....	640	—	....	640
1948	....	580	—	....	580
		4088	3493	7581	

Of an estimated child population of 7,800, some 5,761 children under 15 years of age had been immunised at the end of 1948, of which number 1,552 related to children of pre-school age.

Approximately 88% of school children and 51% of children of pre-school age have now been immunised.

NOTE.—During the years 1935, 1936 and 1937, some 3,009 children received one injection of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. No account of these has been taken in calculating the number of children completely immunised.

Table showing the Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria.

<i>Year</i>		<i>Total Cases</i>		<i>Deaths</i>		<i>Case Mortality Rate</i>		<i>Immunised Children Cases</i>		<i>Deaths</i>
1935	....	110	....	18	....	16.3	....	3	....	—
1936	....	33	....	5	....	15.1	....	3	....	—
1937	...	81	....	3	....	3.7	....	6	....	—
1938	...	49	....	2	....	4.08	....	6	....	—
1939	...	40	....	7	....	17.5	....	11	....	—
1940	..	71	....	2	....	2.81	....	9	....	—
1941	...	87	....	5	....	5.74	....	8	....	—
1942	...	21	...	—	....	—	...	2	....	—
1943	....	18	....	1	....	5.5	....	5	....	—
1944	...	25	....	2	...	8.0	....	9	....	—
1945	...	47	....	3	....	6.38	....	11	...	—
1946	....	21	....	1	....	4.76	...	7	....	—
1947	....	30	...	2	....	6.66	...	11	....	1
1948	....	—	....	—	....	—		—	....	—
		—		—				—		—
		633		51				91		1
		—		—				—		—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Disease	AGES												Total No. of Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 Year	1 —	2 —	3 —	4 —	5 —	10 —	15 —	20 —	35 —	45 —	65 and upwards			
Scarlet Fever ...	2	3	6	3	9	28	11	2	1	—	—	—	65	49	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	10	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	1	2	10	—	8
Erysipelas Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	6	4	5	4	7	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	—
Measles ...	16	42	37	47	51	137	3	1	2	—	—	—	336	8	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	27	49	49	54	68	177	16	3	17	1	2	3	466	60	8

NOTE : Of the sixty hospital cases, forty-nine were admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. Twelve other cases were also admitted for observation as Diphtheria suspects. Bacteriologically these fortunately proved to be negative.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	5	3	1	1	3	2	—	—
35	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
45	...	...	...	4	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55	...	...	...	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS				18	6	1	1	9	6	—	—

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.409 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.58 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was Nil as compared with 0.11 in 1947.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1948.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1948	91	73	15	15
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations	18	6	1	1
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification	2	—	—	1
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	111	79	16	17
No. of cases removed from Register during the year	14	7	—	—
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year	97	72	16	17

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you a Report on the work of your Public Health Department for the year 1948.

The year was marked by staff changes, which necessitated re-organising the Department. Mr. Robins left in June. The post was re-designated as Deputy Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Billingham was appointed to fill this vacancy on 15th November, 1948.

Mr. Cookson (Chief Clerk) left on 25th November to take up an appointment with the Brierley Hill Area Health Committee, and Mr. Powell was appointed to the dual post of Chief Clerk and Ambulance Officer. Mr. G. W. Noke also resigned and that vacancy was filled by Mr. E. N. James, from the Surveyor's Department.

Particular attention has been paid to food preparing premises, and every effort has been made to maintain a reasonable standard of housing conditions.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of my staff and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support, and to Dr. Corlett for his unfailing courtesy and friendly advice at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. E. K. KENT,

Sanitary Inspector.

COMPLAINTS.

A total of 250 complaints was received during the year 1948. These related principally to housing defects.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following data is given in accordance with Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

The numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:

Inspections of houses	....	....	....	625
Inspections under Housing Regulations	....	....	....	25
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	....	....	....	37
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	....	....	....	62
Visits re Tuberculosis	....	....	....	17
Re-inspections and re-visits	....	....	....	2075
Slaughter of pigs on private premises	....	....	....	450
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	98
Factories	....	....	....	91

Bakehouses	....	....	....	9
Food Stores and Food Preparation Premises	....			100
Shops	....	....	....	55
Shops (<i>re</i> unfit food)	....	....	....	68
Vermin Infestation (excluding Rats and Mice)	....			49
Rats and Mice Infestations		....	....	61
Water Supplies	....	....	....	26
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	....	....	....	50
Refuse Tips	....	....	....	2
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	10
Pig sties	....	....	....	83
Smoke Nuisances	....	....	....	21
Number of Notices served during the year :				
Preliminary Notices		....	....	264
Statutory Notices	....	....	....	148

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

Preliminary Intimation Notices sent during the year numbered 264. These, in general, took the form of letters giving particulars of defects and suggestions as to repairs necessary to remedy the defects.

		<i>No. of Notices</i>	<i>No. of houses or premises affected</i>
General defects of houses	....	95	 136
Defective sanitary conveniences	....	21	 37
Defective drainage	....	18	 46
Defective outbuildings	....	3	 7
Unfit water supply	....	2	 2
Defective dustbins	....	101	 142
Accumulations of refuse	....	1	 1
Verminous Premises	....	1	 1
Shops Acts—Contraventions	...	2	 2
Tents, Vans, etc., Nuisances	...	4	... 6
Factories—Defective/Inadequate			
Sanitary accommodation	....	7	 7
Factories—Defective windows	....	—	... —
Food and Drugs Act—Contravention		7	 7
Miscellaneous	....	2	 2
		264	396

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1948.

	No. of Notices.	No. of premises affected.
<i>Public Health Act, 1936 :</i>		
Provision of dustbins (Section 75)....	24	 25
Cleansing of verminous premises (Section 83)	1	 1
Abatement of Nuisances (Section 93)	50	 41
Removal of Noxious Matter (Section 79)	1	 1
Requisition for Information (Section 277)	16	 33
Control of Moveable Dwellings (Section 269)	2	 2
<i>Housing Act, 1936 :</i>		
Notices to appear before Council (Section 11)	21	 16
Demolition Orders (Section 11)	23	 14
Undertaking not to re-let (Section 11)	1	 1
Requisitions for Information (Section 168)	7	 11
<i>Rent Restrictions Act, 1933 :</i>		
Certificates	2	 2
	148	147

Result of the Service of Notices :

Preliminary Notices complied with	 215
	(including 47 Notices brought forward from 1947).
Statutory Notices complied with	 149
	(including 66 Notices brought forward from 1947).

Regulation 68A.A. Defence General Regulations 1939 :

One house subject to Demolition Order was re-opened under the above Regulation.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :	
(i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	452
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1781
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	37
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	412
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of <i>informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their officers	97
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	41
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	72
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	14
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	1
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	....	1

Seventy-one houses were repaired after formal action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

One hundred and seven houses were repaired after informal action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Demolition Orders.

Fourteen Demolition Orders were made during the year in respect of the following houses, all of which were in a state of disrepair bordering on the dangerous:

Nos. 6, 16 and 18, Duke Street, Stourbridge.

No. 6, Queens Road, Stourbridge.

Nos. 1 and 3, Vicarage Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge.

No. 4, Unwin Passage, Wollaston, Stourbridge.

No. 24, Norton Road, Stourbridge.

Nos. 2, 6, 12 and 14, Mill Street, Stourbridge.

Nos. 29 and 30, Bott Lane, Lye, Stourbridge.

Undertakings.

Following upon a Notice to Appear under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, an undertaking not to use for human habitation was accepted by the Borough Council in respect of No. 24A, Brook Street, Wollescote, Stourbridge.

There still remains in the Borough a large number of houses which would normally have been dealt with either under the provisions of Section 11 or Part III of the Housing Act, 1936.

Until such time that more houses are built this type of dwelling is being kept weatherproof by carrying out minor repairs only.

As this type of house becomes vacant a thorough inspection is carried out, and where it is considered incapable of repair appropriate action is taken.

Clearance Orders.

During the year Confirmation of Clearance Order relating to Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7, The Dock, Lye, was received,

VERMIN INFESTATION.

Forty-nine visits were made in connection with vermin infestation (Excluding Rats and Mice), and seventeen houses were successfully treated for bug infestation.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION).

There were 23 complaints of Rats and Mice infestation dealt with during the year. Twelve of these related to private premises, and most of the others to business premises.

Treatment of the sewers was also carried out, but no large infestation was discovered.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS.

Several caravans have at various times during the year occupied land in different parts of the Borough. Most of them were dealt with by informal action, but in two instances formal action was necessary.

In June the Public Health Committee authorised the issue of a licence for a caravan to remain on farm land at Racecourse Lane for a limited period of three months.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Premises used for:

(a) Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice Cream.

During 1948 seven new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream in sealed cartons, and two for the sale of loose ice cream.

At the end of the year there were 29 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and 6 for its manufacture and sale.

Samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The fat content varied between 7.8% and 0.4%, the majority being over 3.0%. Bacteriologically they were mostly in provisional Grades 1 and 2.

Two samples were unsatisfactory, but remedial steps were taken and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

(b) Preparation of Preserved Foods.

There were eleven premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of Preserved Food, principally sausages, and all were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Fish Frying.

There was no change in the number of premises registered (19).

ADULTERATION.

Two hundred and fifty informal samples and four formal samples were submitted for analysis, as follows:—

Milk (ordinary)	94
Milk (Tuberculin Tested) ...	35
Milk (Pasteurised)	21
Milk (Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised)	15
Milk (Sterilised)	4
Milk (Heat-treated)	14
Milk (Jersey Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised)	4
Milk (Jersey Tuberculin Tested)	1
Ice Cream	66
Fish Cake	1
Salad Dressing	2
Sweetening Tablets	1
Meat Pie	1
Fruit-flavoured Wine	1
Cocktail Tonic	1
Doughnuts	3

The samples of doughnuts upon analysis were found to contain an excess of mineral oil, and subsequently the trader was prosecuted under The Mineral Oil Order by the County Council and fined £15.

Analysis of the Cocktail Tonic revealed that the labelling of the bottle as “Cocktail” was incorrect, in that it contained no alcohol and was therefore in contravention of Article 4 (d) of the Labelling of Food Order, 1946. Furthermore the sample contained chloroform, and its presence as a preservative is prohibited in any article of food.

Enquiries of the trader elicited the fact that the Tonic was part of old stock, and the remainder was destroyed.

Two samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were found to be deficient in fat, as were also three samples of raw milk. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLIES.

There are thirteen producers of milk within the Borough, with a total of approximately 250 cows.

The total number of retailers supplying milk (including shop keepers selling Sterilised Milk in bottle only) is 139.

Forty retailers are registered as dairymen.

Ninety-eight visits were made to cowsheds and dairies, which, in spite of labour difficulties, were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

BACTERIAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

One hundred and ninety-nine samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, as under :

Type of Milk.	No. of Samples.			Tests applied.	Results of Tests.		
					Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory	
Tuberculin Tested							
(Pasteurised)		14	....	Methylene Blue	14	....	—
				Phosphatase	 14	....	—
Pasteurised		18	....	Methylene Blue	18	....	—
				Phosphatase	 18	....	—
Sterilized		4	...	Methylene Blue	4	....	—
				Phosphatase	 4	....	—
Heat Treated		27	....	Methylene Blue	27	....	—
				Phosphatase	 25	....	2
Tuberculin Tested		35	....	Methylene Blue	32	....	3
				Tubercle bacilli	—	....	—
				B. Coli	 33	....	2
Raw Milk		98	....	Methylene Blue	79	....	19
				B. Coli	 80	....	18
Jersey Tuberculin							
Tested (Pasteurised)		3	....	Methylene Blue	3	....	—
				Phosphatase	 2	....	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS 1936-1946.

The following Licences were granted during the year :—

Dealers' Bottling Licence :

Tuberculin Tested	....	....	1
Pasteurisers' Licence	....	....	1

Dealers' Retailing Licences :

Tuberculin Tested	....	...	4
Supplementary Licences :			
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	3
Pasteurised	....	....	5

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

There is no Government Centralised Slaughterhouse in the Borough.

Four hundred and fifty-seven home-fed pigs slaughtered on private premises were inspected. Nine heads, 9 mesenteries, 1 set of lungs, 6 frys, 1 liver, and one whole pig were affected with tuberculosis and voluntarily destroyed.

In addition, 68 visits were made to shops, etc., for the inspection of foodstuffs and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

				T.	C.	Q.	LB.
Fish				—	8	1	8
Bacon and Ham				—	—	—	12
Flour and Cereals				—	1	1	9
Cheese				—	—	—	9
Sugar	...			—	—	1	9
Oatmeal		...		—	—	—	6
Fruit		...		—	1	1	4
						No.	
Eggs		..				128	
Pickles		...				4	Jars
Baking Powder						50	pkts.
Salt						1	
Fish Cake		...				1	
Suet Puddings						4	
Fowls		..				19	
<i>Canned Foods :</i>							
						No. of tins	
Vegetables		...				261	
Jam		...				106	
Milk						246	
Soup						47	
Fruit						122	
Fruit Juice	...					37	
Fish						107	
Meat						98	
Fish Paste	...					25	
Miscellaneous						71	

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, thirteen licences were renewed during the year.

WATER SAMPLING.

Public Supplies.

The reports on the public supplies were excellent. Bacteriological counts were very low, whilst chemical examinations have been constant.

The supplies were equally satisfactory as to quantity. They are not liable to plumbo solvency but samples are examined periodically for lead contamination.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied from the Mains direct to the houses was 10845 and by means of standpipes, external to the houses, 90 (approximately).

The following are results of the chemical examination of representative samples of the Town's Water Supply, taken during the year :—

	LOW LEVEL	HIGH LEVEL
	20th Jan. 1948	8th July, 1948
	No. 1	No. 2
<i>Physical Characters.</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>
	<i>Deposit very</i>	<i>Deposit very</i>
	<i>slight</i>	<i>slight brown</i>
	pH 7.7	pH 7.5
Chemical Examination (results in parts per 100,000)		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	Slight trace	Slight trace
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.)	68	68
Solids in Solution, after ignition	50	53
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	11	12
Hardness Permanent	12	21
Hardness Temporary	23	21
Hardness Total	35	42
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.002	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002	0.002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	1.0	0.83
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	None	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	None	0.03
Toxic Metals	None detected.	None detected
Free chlorine on receipt	None	None

Low Level Bore Hole.

10th Sept., 1948.
No. 3.

Physical Characters.

Clear, odourless
Deposit brown.
pH 7.5

Chemical examination (results in parts per 100,000)		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.) ....	....	Trace.
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.) ....	....	32
Solids in Solution. After ignition ....	....	26
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt ....	....	4.3
Hardness Permanent ....	....	6
Hardness Temporary ....	....	13
Hardness Total ....	....	19
Free and Saline Ammonia ....	....	None
Albuminoid Ammonia ....	....	0.005
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) ....	....	Trace.
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) ....	....	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C. ....	....	0.013
Toxic Metals ....	....	None detected.

Some 47 samples were submitted by this Department for bacteriological analysis, and the following are representative of the results received:—

	<i>Number of Colonies developing upon Agar in two days in three days at 27° C. at 22° C. (per one ml.)</i>		<i>Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count. (per 100 ml.)</i>	
January 20th		2	2	... Nil
February 19th		4	20	 Nil
March 10th		Nil	4	 Nil
April 14th		5	10	 Nil
May 12th		1	1	 Nil
June 23rd		Nil	Nil	 Nil
July 21st ...		1	5	 Nil
August 11th		1	1	 Nil
September 16th	...	2	1	 Nil
October 27th	..	1	1	 Nil
November 26th	...	2	2	 Nil
December 2nd		1	2	 Nil

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Pedmore Hall.

One sample taken early in the year was unsatisfactory, but results of subsequent samples proved to be satisfactory.

Nos. 34 and 36, Cleveland Street.

Steps were taken in December to have these two houses connected to a piped water supply. They had previously been served by a well.

SWIMMING BATHS.

During the year eight samples of water from the Corporation Swimming Baths were submitted for chemical analysis and 37 for bacteriological examination.

The supply is taken from the Baths own well and is chlorinated; the bacteriological examination revealed that the chlorination was effective and that the bacteriological counts were kept within safe limits.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	69	23	4	
(2) Factories not included in :				
(1) to which Section 7 applies...				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938 ...	161	68	4	
(b) Other ...	—	—	—	
(3) Other Premises under the Act (Excluding outworkers premises) ...	—	—	—	
TOTAL ...	230	91	8	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred :		
			To H.M Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences re- lating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	7	—

OUTWORKERS.

Twenty-four lists were received, containing the names of 46 outworkers, 19 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The premises of outworkers resident in the Borough are satisfactory.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Eighty-one licences were issued during the year—68 to store petroleum spirit only, 4 to store petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium, 1 to store petroleum and cellulose, 3 to store cellulose only, 2 to store carbide of calcium only, 1 to store carbide of calcium and rubber solution, and 2 to store rubber solution only.

These licences authorised the storage of 83,110 gallons of petroleum spirit, 7,770lbs. carbide of calcium, 128lbs. rubber solution, and 980 gallons of cellulose solution and cellulose thinners.

The sum of £69 18s. was received as licence fees.

